

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

I'm not one of these people who pays a lot for phone service and thinks nothing of it. I have spent a lot of time carefully selecting phone plans. I put off getting a cell phone for years, because the plans cost so much and it was so easy to rack up big bills. I finally got a cell phone, but I plan to use it very sparingly.

I'm sure you understand that as a cost-conscious consumer trying to save enough for retirement (or losing my job), I am concerned to hear that the FCC is considering changing to a flat-fee method for collecting contributions to the Universal Service Fund, resulting in a tax hike for me. As I understand it, the flat-fee proposal under consideration would mean that people like me who make only a few long-distance calls would pay the same as business that make many such calls. This seems patently unfair: why should low-volume and residential customers be taxed the same for the Universal Service Fund as high-volume or business customers?

My cell phone is mainly for emergencies. I have used it only two or three times in the four months I've owned it. Once was to call AAA when my car broke down over 20 miles from home, on a cold winter day as it was getting dark. I was so thankful that I had the phone that day, and I don't want to have to give it up because I'm being forced to subsidize business and high-volume users.

Please reject the proposal to move USF collection to a flat-fee system. It would clearly penalize low-volume users, who are often people like me: those who manage their money carefully because they need to.

Please do the right thing with regard to the Universal Service Fund.

Sincerely,

Susan Bolotin
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